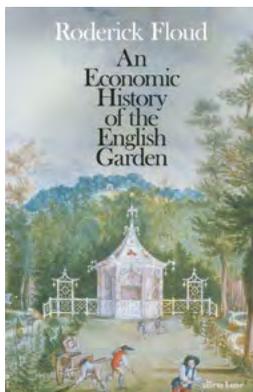


# BOOK REVIEWS



## AN ECONOMIC HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH GARDEN

by Roderick Floud

Allen Lane, £25  
ISBN 978-0241235577

*A compellingly readable manifesto for the proper recognition of the huge economic value and technological impact of the English garden.*

*Reviewer Marian Boswall is a garden designer.*

The starting point for Floud's book is a simple one: how much did an English garden cost, from the Restoration onwards?

Deconstructing the multifaceted aspects of a garden's design, construction and maintenance lays bare the sheer scale of our national 'hobby' in terms of employment of designers, growers, skilled gardeners, contractors and manufacturers. The story ranges from tales of aristocratic extravagance to public parks and local allotments. Floud uses a clever but common-sense method to compare costs through the ages that brings home the vast investment in gardens and landscapes, from the years 1660 to 1700 when the equivalent of over £1.5 billion was spent on palace gardens to the current £27-million annual budget for London's Royal Parks, and 18,500 acres devoted to public allotments in 1980.

Within this tally, Floud also details the industry's under-

recognised impact on innovation. From Joseph Paxton's use of glass at Crystal Palace, to the combustion engine and hydroponics, the horticultural industry continues to have a far-reaching impact on research and invention.

This book will sit alongside classics such as Charles Quest-Ritson's *The English Garden* and Tom Turner's philosophical *Garden History*, providing an accessible, data-driven economist's view that may finally compel our politicians and business people to understand the importance of the English garden.

This book adds gravitas to the many voices of natural reason within the industry trying to rebalance the way we live with sustainable life on Earth. Let's hope our leaders listen and our economy-driving landscape makers can focus their skills and insight to drive the innovation needed to clean up the planet.

## Other books

This month's topics include flower arranging, garden birds of Britain, and how to achieve a truly sustainable lifestyle



### NEW BOTANICAL PAINTING

by Harriet de Winton

Ilex Press, £12.99

ISBN 978-1781577523

Learn the basics of botanical painting with this clear and beautifully illustrated guide from an award-winning artist. Perfect for creatives and flower-lovers alike.



### ON FLOWERS

by Amy Merrick

Artisan, £27.99

ISBN 978-1579658120

Merrick is known for her wild, natural flower arranging and here she teaches us how to create simple yet stunning displays of flora to celebrate any style or season.



### RSPB GARDEN BIRDS

by Marianne Taylor

Bloomsbury, £25

ISBN 978-1472955913

A detailed run-through of 47 of the most familiar birds spotted in gardens around Britain, with sumptuous photos and detailed bird descriptions.



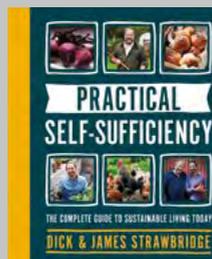
### THE VEGETATIVE KEY TO BRITISH FLORA (2ND EDITION)

by John Poland and Eric Clement

John Poland, £25

ISBN 978-0956014429

A revised edition of the popular and thorough guide to British flora, with over 4,000 updates since its first publication ten years ago.



### PRACTICAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY

by Dick and James Strawbridge

DK, £25

ISBN 978-0241400845

Lessons in understanding renewable energy, growing your own food and adopting a sustainable lifestyle from the green-fingered, father-and-son team, Dick and James Strawbridge.